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March 14, 1969

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

As I started to read your letter of March 3, which is insulting and "redolent" with "unsubstantiated charges" and presumptions, it was my first reaction to toss it in the wastebasket. But as I continued to scan your accumulation of rumors, I felt that your diatribe just might be concealing a man who genuinely cares about justice.

We are swamped with real and present problems needing attention far beyond the capacity of this office. But I do believe your letter should be answered.

No one has contacted me to suggest a meeting with you. If you are seeking the truth, as I know it, and a better understanding of what we do and why, my door is and has always been open to you.

Despite what the press may have carried in your part of the country, I have not suggested that Garrison resign. I have stated that there is still the unresolved business of having an orderly forum to investigate allegations of crimes committed by Garrison and members of the staff. The STATES-ITEM and WDSU-TV have urged that Garrison resign. Actually, I think it a good idea. However, if it happens that way, I'm afraid the public will still hot

have learned very much about the phenomena of tyrants and demagogues.

Your information that I was instrumental in bringing the late Guy Banister to New Orleans is completely inaccurate. I knew Banister very casually in the mid or late 30's when we were both in the F.B.I. and had no contact with him thereafter. That is, not until 1954 when Mayor Chep Morrison brought him to New Orleans as an official in the Police Department, ultimately the Assistant Superintendent. In April, 1954, I had completed an 1845 page report of widespread corruption, brutality and incompetence in the New Orleans Police Department. Responsibility for these conditions was dropped in the Mayor's lap. Under tremendous pressures to do something, the Mayor hired Guy Banister as the retiring Special Agent in charge of the F.B.I.'s Chicago office. Banister subsequently told me that he was offered the job because Banister's brother had attended L.S.U. Law School with Morrison and they were still very close friends. He also said that the Mayor, counting on the brother's friendship and loyalty, had told him that one of his major responsibilities would be to discredit me in order to discredit the report. However, by 1958 the conclusions of that report had been confirmed through action of U.S. Internal Revenue and a couple of grand juries.

It was not known to me until after Banister's death that he came to New Orleans destined to create chaos and end his life tragically. In Chicago a medical examination had established brain damage, with a prognosis of deterioration and increasingly erratic conduct. That's exactly what did happen. He became gun happy. His abortive private investigative agency and his past prestigious official identification attracted the emotionally ill and the compulsive haters.

Mine is not the kind of ego which can lead me to believe that my investigative capacities exceed those of the combined federal agencies. Nor have I the cynicism to believe, without clear-cut proof, that a vast conspiracy existed to delude the public about the murder of John

Kennedy.

I shall continue to fight injustice and corruption to the limit of my abilities. It is hoped that you will do the same.

Very truly yours,

Aaron M. Kohn

Aaron M. Kohn
Managing Director

AMK:shw